

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 EUR-12

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R 271751Z MAY 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 115

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 3927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, SZ

SUBJECT: MTN: AMB DENT'S MEETING WITH AMB JACOBI

1. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION ON CHEESE COUNTERVAILING DUTY
ISSUE DESCRIBED IN MTN GENEVA 3851, AMB JACOBI,
SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE AND ARTHUR DUNKEL, SWISS GATT
REPRESENTATIVE, REVIEWED SWISS MTN POSITIONS ON TARIFFS AND
SECTORS, AND DISCUSSED SWISS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

2. TARIFFS SWISS APPLAUDED APPARENT US RECEPTIVITY TO
IDEA OF FLOOR IN TARIFF REDUCTION FORMULA. REASON GIVEN
FOR ABANDONMENT OF SWISS POSITION FAVORING TARIFF
ELIMINATION WAS THAT SWISS ALREADY HAVE LOW TARIFF PROFILE
AND SINCE THE TOKYO ROUND WILL RESULT IN OTHERS STILL
MAINTAINING SIGNIFICANT TARIFFS, THEY WISHED TO PRESERVE
BARGAINING LEVERAGE FOR FUTURE ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS.
(COMMENT: LEVERAGE OF LOW REMAINING SWISS DUTIES MAY BE
LESSER MOTIVATION THAN SWISS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN
FEDERAL CUSTOMS REVENUES AND TO PRESERVE SOME OF
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PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT INHERENT IN EC/EFTA AGREEMENT).

AMB DENT REPLIED THAT VARIOUS FORMULAE WERE PROPOSED SOLELY FOR STUDY AND THAT USG POLICY ON TARIFF FORMULAS, INCLUDING WHETHER TO HAVE FOLLOR OR ELIMINATION OF LOW DUTIES, WAS OPEN QUESTION PENDNG COMPLETION OF FIRST STAGE OF US STATUTORY ADVISOR PROCESS.

3. SECTORS. DUNKEL EXPLAINED THAT SWISS POSITION TO US POSITION FOR EARLY PROGRESS IN SECTOR GROUP WAS IN PART FOR DOMESTIC REASONS AS WELL AS BELIEF THAT GENERAL TARIFF AND NTM RULES SHOULD BE ELABORATED PRIOR TO SERIOUS SECTOR WORK. SWISS WILL FAOVR SOME SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS BUT FELT THAT SELECTION OF CERTAIN SECTORS FOR STUDY NOW WOULD SUBJECT THEM TO INDUSTRY PRESSURES FOR AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL SECTORS BEING CONSIDERED NOW. WE RESPONDED THAT US MAINTAINED APPROACH THAT SECTOR APPROACH WAS TO BE A COMPLEMENTARY ONE, FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GENERAL RULES, AND THAT FURTHERMORE WE COULD NOT DEVELOP OUR POSITION FURTHER IN THE DIRECTION OF SECTOR WORK WITHOUT INDUSTRY ADVICE.

4. SWISS MADE POINT THAT THEY HOPED THAT WATCHES WOULD NOT BECOME A PROBLEM IN THIS NEGOTIATION, AND WERE OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWING ITC STATEMENTS OF US PRODUCERS IN THIS REGARD.

5. IN GENERAL, JACOBI HOPED FOR CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACT WITH USG TRADE OFFICIALS TO AVOID TRADE DISPUTES. HE NOTED THAT MOST SEVERE TRADE PROBLEMS CURRENTLY FACING SWISS WAS THE EFFECT OF THE HIGH RELATIVE VALUE OF THE FRANC AND THE RESULTANT DAMAGE TO SWISS EXPORTS.

6. CABLE PREPARED AFTER AMB DENT'S DEPARTURE.

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